Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims, including amendments to the claims, is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination system comprising:

a light guide having an entrance face, an exit face and an aperture in which a light source can be arranged, wherein the entrance face and exit face of the light guide are opposite to and in parallel with each other; ~~the system being characterized in that it comprises:~~

a light reflective structure arranged in proximity to the light guide entrance face, the light reflective structure being arranged with an aperture in which the light source can be fitted; and

a first light refractive structure arranged in proximity to the light guide exit face, in which first light refractive structure:

~~at least a subset of~~all light beams [[of]] incident upon the first light refractive structure from a side of the light refractive structure closest to the entrance face and at a first angular interval with respect to the optical axis of the system [[is]] are refracted to illuminate the light guide exit face, and

~~at least a subset of~~ all light beams [[of]] incident upon the first light refractive structure from a side of the light refractive structure closest to the entrance face and at a second angular interval with respect to said optical axis [[is]] are reflected to be recycled in the light guide.

2. (Previously Presented) The illumination system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a light diffusing element arranged between the light reflective structure and the first light refractive structure to alter the angle of light beams incident on said diffusing element with respect to the optical axis.

3. (Previously Presented) The illumination system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reflective polarizer arranged in proximity to the light guide exit face to transmit light beams of a first polarization mode and reflect light beams of a second polarization mode.

4. (Previously Presented) The illumination system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a polarization converting element arranged in the light guide to alter the polarization mode of light beams incident on said polarization converting element.

5. (Previously Presented) The illumination system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second light refracting structure arranged in proximity to the light guide entrance face to increase the angle of light beams refracted in said second light refracting structure with respect to the optical axis.

6. (Previously Presented) The illumination system according to claim 1, the light guide having a plurality of apertures, wherein a light source can be arranged in each aperture and a dichroic coating adapted to the spectral properties of the respective light source is arranged in each aperture.

7. (Currently Amended) The illumination system according to claim 1, wherein the light source ~~is~~ includes at least one of a laser, an LED, and a gas discharge lamp.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A display system comprising the illumination system according to claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A projection display system comprising the illumination system according to claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) A direct view LCD system comprising the illumination system according to claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) The illumination system of claim 1, wherein the optical axis of the system is normal to light guide exit face, and wherein the subset of light beams of the first angular interval that are refracted by the first light refractive structure to illuminate the light guide exit face make an acute angle with respect to the optical axis that is greater than an acute angle with respect to the optical axis that is made by the subset of light beams of the second angular interval that is reflected to be recycled in the light guide.

14. (Previously Presented) The illumination system of claim 1, wherein the first light refractive structure comprises a plurality of prisms.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The illumination system of claim 1, further comprising a projection lens receiving light from the exit face of the light guide.

17. (New) The illumination system of claim 1, wherein the light reflective structure comprises a mirror disposed on the entrance face.

18. (New) The illumination system of claim 5, wherein the second light refracting structure comprises a prism structure arranged in the aperture.

19. (New) An illumination system, comprising:

a rod-type light guide, including:

an entrance face at a first end of the rod-type light guide, the entrance face having an aperture formed therein wherein a light source can be provided,

a mirror disposed on the entrance face, the mirror having an aperture therein wherein the light source can be provided,

an exit face at a first end of the rod-type light guide opposite and in parallel to the first face, an optical axis extending between the entrance face and the exit face in a direction perpendicular to the entrance face and the exist face, and

a light refractive structure disposed between the entrance face and the exit face in proximity to the exit face, the light refractive structure being adapted to reflect all light beams incident thereon from a side of the light refractive structure closest to the entrance face at an acute angle with respect to the optical axis that is less than a first angle, and being adapted to refract all light beams incident thereon from the side of the light refractive structure closest to the entrance face at an acute angle with respect to the optical axis that is greater than a second angle, wherein the second angle is greater than or equal to the first angle.

20. (New) The illumination system of claim 19, wherein the light refractive structure comprises a plurality of prisms.

21. (New) The illumination system of claim 20, further comprising a light diffusing element disposed on the prisms.

22. (New) The illumination system of claim 19, further comprising a reflective polarizer disposed between the light refractive structure and the exit face, on the exit face.

23. (New) The illumination system of claim 19, further comprising a second light refracting structure disposed in the aperture of the mirror.